

# LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL

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## LAW AND LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY CONDITIONS IN TEXAS.

BY JOHN BOYNTON KAISER, Legislative Reference Librarian Texas State Library.

The main repositories of law in our state are the Supreme Court Law Library and the Texas State Library. Together, as congenial neighbors, these occupy a well lighted and ventilated room one hundred and twenty four feet wide and sixty eight feet deep extending across the north wing of the capitol on the second floor. The library of the supreme court is furnished with movable floor cases placed in parallel rows and circular tables built around pillars which support the floor above. It covers the western portion of the room. In the eastern portion is the State Library where we have the art metal stack, one tier only, desks, chairs and tables, filing cabinets, periodical racks and a few wooden floor cases. Separating us from our neighbor are show cases exhibiting manuscripts, relics and photographs of value and interest to the student of the history of our state and the Southwest in general. In addition to this we have in the capital basement at some distance from the main library two rooms where are now shelved the national and state documents and the State Library's duplicates.

History records that the first books were secured for the State Library as the result of a recommendation in 1836 by the finance committee of the provisional government of the Republic of Texas. In 1839 President Lamar was authorized to select and purchase books to the amount of \$10,000 and to have them deposited in the office of the secretary of state. Under this officer's control the library remained for thirty seven years. Meanwhile it had grown by a system of authorized exchange with other governments and by occasional purchases and in 1866 had reached the dignity of having a state librarian appointed. The commissioner of insurance, statistics and history was given charge in 1876 and his chief clerk became ex-officio librarian. We now operate under Chapter 70 of the Laws of 1909 which created the Texas library and historical commission of five members,—the state superintendent of public instruction, the head of the school of history of the state university and three other members appointed by the governor.

The commission, among other things, has control of the State Library and appoints the librarian and his assistant. The librarian is made secretary of the commission and the assistant librarian is specially instructed by this law to conduct the legislative reference section of the State Library which the Library Commission is authorized and directed to maintain. Thus and without funds except the salary of the assistant librarian in charge was created our legislative reference section. Active work in it was not begun until September 1st., 1910, eight months ago. In the routine work that followed, the books on sociology and political science were gathered from various parts of the library, classified, labeled, and shelf-listed. Two sets of cards were printed bearing the dates 1801 to 1860, and 1861 to 1920 in six parallel columns of ten

years to the column. On these the collection of session laws was catalogued by putting the name of the state at the top and by checking the years covered by volumes on our shelves; a short-cut cataloguing system originated, I believe, by Mr. Tilton.

In this way the session laws and statutes were inventoried; missing volumes of recent sessions were then sought. Duplicates were exchanged for the latest compilations of statutes of which we lacked many, until now we have the latest for about forty states and territories. With comparatively few exceptions our session laws do not antedate 1848, the year when the system of exchange through the office of the secretary of state was authorized, and since that time little effort has been made to fill in this collection with the earlier volumes.

The present librarian being in hearty accord with this work our expenditures for books and periodicals since last September have been made largely with a view to increasing the serviceability of this section. The periodicals received include economic, political, legal and municipal journals and the new books added to the library tend to make the collection of political science material representative of the best and latest thought on questions of current and increasing prominence. In fact, in sociology, economics, government and statute law we have a substantial nucleus for a well-rounded, useful and up-to-date library. It is in this field that we find the greatest use for the collection of state and national documents which within the past year the librarian by heroic measures has put into serviceable condition by properly arranging them. The burning of the capitol in 1881 had destroyed most of this collection and the accumulations of the years since had been allowed to arrange themselves on the basement floor.

In addition to the books on the shelves classified by the decimal classification there has been started a vertical file of the pamphlet literature classified by a system of key numbers wherein each number signifies a phase of legislation. The system of classification used is that of the indispensable "Index of Legislation" issued annually by the New York State Library and which we sincerely trust will continue in spite of the recent disaster at Albany.

To increase the value of this exceedingly useful vertical file library lists and bibliographies are closely watched and items desired are checked and requested from the issuing source. Publications specially to be watched are the "Survey," "Special Libraries," the library journals, "State Publications," and the monthly catalogue of the Superintendent of Documents. The advance sheets of the Congressional Documents add many a valuable report to this file.

Another feature of the work of this section is to index and bind the bills and resolutions introduced by each house of the state legislature. Those for the session which closed the eleventh of last March are now indexed and in the bindery. The means at hand, we should also index the bills, governors' messages and state documents of former years. This will come as a future development of our work.

Our clientele includes high school and university students, especially the debaters, legislators, state officials and the public at large. In Austin we try to make up for the lack of a public library and to supplement the facilities of the library of the state university. If we can aid the other libraries of the state with information or material we are glad to do so.

The actual use of this section is increasingly gratifying. We have had no requests for bill-drafting and shall seek none with our present force. Our

greatest work with the legislators was locating existing laws and pertinent discussions. A few of the subjects on which assistance was given at the recent session are jury fees, parole, state civil service, public drinking cups, and child labor.

We exchanged bills with Michigan, Kansas, and Indiana and received in addition those of New York, but our facilities were inadequate for the proper handling of this mass of material. And for lack of funds and the time to devote to their arrangement we have not subscribed to the cards of the Law Reporting Company of New York. It is likely that the staff of the State Library will be enlarged by two when the general appropriation bill is passed in August but the legislative reference section will not be affected as these new assistants will have to attend to other matters, the cataloguing of books and the arrangement of manuscripts. We have issued but one publication, an annotated "finding-list," hoping in this way to extend our usefulness by making our resources better known.

At present the control of the Supreme Court Law Library rests in the court; the clerk is officially librarian and the bailiff or marshall is the assistant librarian actually in charge. The judges make all the rules, buy all the books, and approve all the accounts. The library numbers about 15,000 volumes and includes the usual run of reports—American, English and Irish—digests, encyclopedias, and text-books. The American statute law was given to the State Library two years ago and all additions to it received by exchange in the office of the secretary of state become our property. It is shelved conveniently for the patrons of both libraries.

No current periodicals are received in the Law Library. Its bound volumes of about a dozen sets cover the period from 1830 to 1896 with varying degrees of fullness but there are none later. To remedy this lack in a small way the State Library has added a few legal periodicals to its own list including the *Index to Legal Periodicals* and *Law Library Journal*.

The text-book collection is fairly large but lacks some of the recent authorities.

In addition to the really good collection of reports English law is represented by the early Rolls of Parliament, the Year-books, Howell's State Trials, Halsbury's Laws of England, English Reports Full Reprint, and the second edition of that not improperly called anonymous classic, the *Fleta*, published in London in the year sixteen eighty five.

Twenty large folio volumes and index of Irish statutes, 1310–1800 printed at Dublin 1786 to 1801 form a valuable addition to this collection.

A little group of volumes little or never used at this day I believe reflects the quondam interest of a legal bibliophile in the accumulations of the library and perhaps reflects further the mixed system of jurisprudence through which the commonwealth of Texas has passed in its development under the flags of at least six entirely distinct governments.

There is the old civil law in Latin, French and Spanish; the *Corpus Juris Civilis* and *Corpus Juris Romani* before the days of Justinian; the "Observations" of Franciscus Censalius published at Frankfort and Nuremberg in 1669; ecclesiastical and canonical law represented by the *Corpus Juris Canonici* published at old "Lvgdvni" or Lyons in 1614, and a commentary of Van-Espen having both Louvain and Lyons on the title-page. And among the old and interesting titles in foreign tongues—to name only a few—we find *Covarruvias* with a Geneva imprint, de Escaño printed at Hispali or Seville in 1676, Gomez

dated Lyons 1661, a Grotius, a thirteenth edition of Lonigus printed at Norimbergae in 1725, a Mascardus printed at "Francofurti ad Moenum" in 1619 and imprints of Madrid, Paris, Lipsie, Cologne, Brussels, Venice, Mexico City and Coloniae Allobrogum or modern Geneva.

The Court Library is supported by an appropriation of \$1,500 for books and bindings for both the library proper and the judges consultation room which latter has some 1,200 volumes at the present time. The history of the Court's Library shows its evolution from a collection of books in the office of the secretary of state moved to the court room during sittings and returned at adjournment, through formal establishment by law in 1854 in three separate cities, to permanent quarters under one roof in Austin in 1882. The only catalogue is an incomplete, imperfect and inadequate manuscript.

Other libraries deserving of at least passing mention at this time are those of the several courts of civil appeals located variously in the state at San Antonio, Forth Worth, Austin, Dallas and Texarkana and ranging in size from several hundred volumes to 7,000 each and receiving generally \$500 a year for support.

The law department of the state university at Austin has a library of some 6,500 carefully selected volumes including 1,500 texts, 250 foreign treatises and duplicate sets of the most used reports. Four current legal periodicals are received.

Private libraries hardly come with propriety within the scope of this paper but I shall mention two, that of the firm of Etheridge & McCormick at Dallas and that of Andrews, Ball & Streetman of Houston, as considerably more elaborate than the general run. The extensive Texiana library of Mr. R. F. Burgess of El Paso contains an almost perfect set of the original Texas session laws, something not often found.

My subject is library conditions and not legal bibliography but permit me please to just mention that between the years 1837 and 1858 certain of the session laws of the republic and state of Texas were authorized translated and published in Spanish, German, and one session—1858—in Norwegian. Of these authorized translations only one, a German translation of part of the laws of the fourth state legislature, is in the possession of the State Library. Others known to be in existence are a Spanish translation of the first four sessions of the Congress of the Republic (which we have ordered from Mr. Cole), the seventh state legislature in Spanish, and the third and fifth state legislatures in German, also purchased by us but not yet received. Information regarding other copies of these or additional translated sessions will be gratefully received.

In conclusion let me define legislative reference work as we understand it and hope to develop it. It is simply giving the members of the legislature the opportunity of making a comparative study of the questions which come before them as the law-makers of the state. And to do this we endeavor to lay before them the published experience of other commonwealths as embodied in their statutes, the actual results of the application of these statutes as given by those who must apply them, the literature of sociology describing the conditions of society which give rise to the necessity for new forms of legislation, the best thought of the scholarly theorists in political science and the experience of those who are daily meeting and solving the complicated problems of modern administration. That is our platform and I believe we shall be aided more and more in expanding our resources to accomplish our ideals.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EXCHANGE OF DUPLICATES.

This committee was continued from 1910 to attempt the exchange of duplicate Bar Association Reports between as many libraries as were attempting to complete files or had duplicate material which might be exchanged.

The work of 1909-1910 of exchanging law books of all kinds, proved quite fruitless. While there were some exchanges reported, it seemed that the compilation and issuance of general lists of duplicate law books required much more labor than was regarded advisable considering the benefit derived.

The committee has received but one list of Bar Association Reports wanted and for exchange, since the last meeting; hence the compilation of lists and printing of the same in the Law Library Journal has been impossible.

Unless the members of the association have some more promising method of effecting exchanges than has yet been proposed, it would seem that the committee might be discontinued and this line of work left to individuals who will probably obtain good results from the insertion of their wants in a column of the Law Library Journal.

Respectfully submitted,

GERTRUDE ELSTNER WOODARD,  
Committee on Exchange of Duplicates.

May 8, 1911.

### CARDS OF STATE STATUTES AND SESSION LAWS.

This work is still being carried on as announced in 3 Law Library Journal p. 33 (Oct. 1910).

Those librarians who sent cards are hereby notified that if they care to receive their cards as they are printed, even though the series is not complete, a postal to that effect addressed to Miss Gertrude E. Woodard, Law Library, University of Michigan will insure this being done.

An attempt is being made to make a complete series of cards for each state that the material will be useful bibliographically, and in many cases the Law Library of the University of Michigan does not possess such complete files. It is necessary for the librarian to visit other libraries in order to secure the necessary data for the printing of the cards. The work is therefore proceeding slowly but none the less surely.

Anyone wishing to secure copies of the cards may still do so under the conditions mentioned in 3 Law Library Journal p. 33. (Oct. 1910.)

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REPRINTING SESSION LAWS.

Probably the highest priced material which law libraries buy to-day, all things considered, is session laws. Many of our sets have gaps in them which can only be filled at rare intervals and even then at most excessive prices and the worst of it is, these prices are going up all the time from a variety of natural and artificial causes. The increasing number of law libraries desiring, and acquiring acts of session laws, naturally forces up the market price of these volumes and sets. And, as a library secures a volume or a set, there is

no probability of that volume or set coming on the market again. There are scores of law libraries now in what may be called the session law stage of their development. The large bar libraries of this country, and some of the large law school libraries, have ample funds and it is no question of money with them, the order is "get the book." While compiling this report we saw a Massachusetts folio law of 50 pages bring the sum of \$40.00 at auction in Boston, this price being paid by the largest law library in the world.

The Library of Congress is in the market for a triplicate set of session laws, and is actually buying back its own duplicates disposed of some years ago. One large law school library has lately bought in block a complete set of state session laws, another is making up a duplicate set of session laws, and there are at least half a dozen large law schools either gathering session laws now, or soon will be acquiring sets. The supply is giving out, duplicates have been sold from state libraries, and the nooks and corners of the country are now being gone over for stray volumes of old laws.

In the case of the thirteen original states, these early session laws are sought for as samples of early printing, or as book rarities, by private collectors with practically unlimited means, and these prices soar often times beyond the limits of any library purchase funds. In addition to the law libraries desiring sets of these laws and often times paying exorbitant prices for them, there are numbers of college, historical, society and university libraries, needing them for source material for study of history and sociology. Nowhere else can one find so much authenticated material as in our session laws. For example we had occasion to verify the pagination of the set of folio Massachusetts Laws October 1780-1805 in this library the other day and glancing through the pages, found acts of incorporation of several turn-pike companies. From these acts alone fixing names of directors, route and names of parties on route of proposed road, could be written as essay on this one particular phase of that transportation system. Concerning this very state in which we are now assembled, how many historical data can be gained from the early session laws of fifty and more years ago? They take you back to the old ranches, and days of the 49ers. These session laws of various states are becoming rare and difficult to obtain on account of various natural causes aside from the artificial causes, like supply, demand, high prices and going into libraries as a permanent investment. As originally printed they were in comparatively small editions, on different qualities of paper, and by different printers in different localities. You will readily see that in the case of many of the states of the big Mississippi Valley, and most of the states and territories west of the great river, with which you are all familiar, that the vicissitudes of those strenuous times did not tend to a preservation of these laws. In many cases by reason of fire and flood, removal of capitols from one place to another, Indian massacres and border wars, the laws suffered as did everything and every body. The people had all they could do to save their lives, let alone the laws, and these very states to-day, now among the most wealthy and prosperous of the Union, in many cases for their own state libraries are dependent on the reprinted session laws of the thirteen colonies and even of the thirteen original states as far as the laws, both colonial and state have been reprinted. The session laws of the colonies forming the thirteen original states are unobtainable at this present time except in form of reprints. Even since the adoption of the Constitution in 1780 by these same states, down to 1820 for a period of 40 years, single folios of their session laws are scarce and high priced long runs and com-

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REPRINTING SESSION LAWS. 33

plete sets are not on the market. These states of the original thirteen have reprinted their session laws as given below, in some cases further down than others, in official form and under authority.

*Delaware*, Laws from 1700-1797, 2 vols. Newcastle, 1797 vol. 3 1806-1813. Wilmington, 1816 vol. 4 1816-1829. Wilmington, 1829.

*Massachusetts*, Acts and Resolves, 1692-1780. Boston 1869-1909. 17 vols. (Work in progress) Acts and Resolves, 1780-1805, 13 vols. Boston, 1890-1898.

*New Hampshire*, Laws 1679-1702, vol. 1. Manchester 1904. A note from Mr. A. H. Chase, Librarian, New Hampshire State Library, says that volume 2 is in press.

*New York*, Colonial laws. 1660-1775, 5 vols., Albany, 1894. Laws 1774-1775, Albany, 1888. Laws 1777-1801, 5 vols., Albany 1886-1887.

*Pennsylvania*, Statutes 1682-1801, vols. 2-14. Harrisburg, 1896-1909 (work in progress).

*South Carolina*, Statutes at Large 1682-1878, 16 vols., Columbus, 1836-1878.

*Virginia*, Statutes at Large, 1619-1792, 13 vols., New York, Richmond, Philadelphia, 1819-1823. Supplement, 1792-1806, 3 vols., Richmond, 1835.

The six remaining states, Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Rhode Island have so far as we know, published no official reprints of these early session laws.

Connecticut has reprinted some of these early laws in their series of colonial records.

Maryland has reprinted some of their early laws as part of their archives and records.

North Carolina laws have been reprinted in their series of records and archives.

Rhode Island has been reprinted as part of their colony records.

This leaves only Georgia and New Jersey of the thirteen original states, with no reprint of these early laws so far as we have been able to learn.

The first group of admitted states covering the period from 1780 to 1848, is as follows, the arrangement being chronological—Vermont 1791, Kentucky 1792, Tennessee 1796, Ohio 1802, Louisiana 1812, Indiana 1816, Mississippi 1817, Illinois 1818, Alabama 1819, Maine 1820, Missouri 1821, Arkansas 1836, Michigan 1837, Florida 1845, Texas 1845, Iowa 1846, Wisconsin 1848.

It is apparent in this group of states, especially those in the south and west, that the session laws, would as a rule, stand less chance of preservation than in the case of those of the thirteen original states for an earlier period. This country is a vast one and settlements were few and far between and all the causes before mentioned as tending to destruction or non-preservation of documents would be present here, and at this period in a marked degree. We cite only two examples of prices of the original of these session laws as showing how dear they have already become. Maine, set off from Massachusetts in 1820, and of course by that time well settled along the seaboard, dates her first session law June 1820. This brings \$10.00 a copy in open market, and, as it has only 55 pages, is nearly 20 cents a page. Illinois admitted in 1818 goes ahead of this even. One of the early session laws on account of its rarity, brings \$30.00 a copy, when it comes on the market.

The record of official reprints of this group of states so far as we have information, is as follows:

*Illinois*. Territorial Session Laws 1809-1812. By its Historical Society, Springfield, 1906.

*Indiana.* Laws of territory, 1801-1806 inclusive. Paoli, Indiana, 1886. This seems to be semi official. It certainly is done with much care from original copies.

*Iowa.* Territory, session laws 1838-1839, and 1839 by its Historical Department in 1900 and 1902, 2 vols.

*Michigan.* Full reprint of Territorial Laws. 1805-1835 in 4 volumes, 1871-1884.

*Texas.* Laws 1822-1897, by Gammel Publishing Company, 1898, 10 vols. Although not done under state auspices has foreword from one of their leading men and seems to be semi official at least, and certainly is in use in a number of libraries.

*Wisconsin.* Territory session laws 1836-1838, reprinted 1867. Both Iowa and Wisconsin have ample legislative authority for reprinting further years of session laws. While this report is being written, we are informed by Mr. Small, State Law Librarian of Iowa, that their last legislature authorized the reprinting of all territorial and state session laws to the Code of 1860, beginning with the reprints above noted by the State Historical Department. They will also reprint the first compilation of 1843. We hope their shining example will be followed by a number of their sister states. In Wisconsin Mr. Bradley reports the matter is under the supervision of the supreme court. There may be other and more official reprints of some of these states and if so we shall be pleased to receive information concerning them.

The third group of states to be admitted takes in all up to the writing of this report. What congress will do with Arizona and New Mexico in the next few weeks, we cannot foretell. These are also arranged according to admission as states. California 1850, Minnesota 1858, Oregon 1859, Kansas 1861, West Virginia 1863, Nevada 1864, Nebraska 1867, Colorado 1876, North Dakota 1889, South Dakota 1889, Montana 1889, Washington 1889, Idaho 1890, Wyoming 1890, Utah 1896, Oklahoma 1907.

Of this group of states so far as we know, West Virginia is the only one to issue official reprint of its early session laws. This reprint is as follows:

Convention of June 1861, Act of July 1, 1861, Dec. 2, 1861, May 6, 1862, Dec. 4, 1862 and Acts of 1863, 1864, 1865 and 1866 were all reprinted by the state in 1866. There are notes of commercial reprints of occasional session laws of the following states: Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Tennessee. These commercial reprints are made in small lots, generally, 50 copies and their price runs from \$2.50 to \$7.50 and averages \$5.00 a volume. At auction they not infrequently bring from \$10.00 to \$15.00 a volume. They may be, and frequently are, less than 100 pages and at any such prices as noted above, are dearly bought luxuries.

Reprints of whole years or sessions, in case of short sessions, several in one volume, made under authority and certified as such, are as good as the originals for production in any court, and for practical purposes are better than the originals, because they can be supplied with that most important part, often lacking in the original, a good index. In editions of one thousand volumes of about 500 pages to a volume printed with good ink, on permanent paper, bound in cloth, they can be produced by the state so as to be sold to individuals at one dollar a volume, and should be supplied free to all libraries needing and using them. The originals are all in print, all collected and bound, need no copying, no editing and only reprinting under seal of the

secretary of state to be as competent as the originals for use of the bench and bar of any state and of course are eminently fit for ordinary use. There are a number of libraries in the country needing such sets. The latest available statistics of law libraries, those found in report of U. S. Bureau of Education issued in 1900 gives the number of law libraries as 109, number of college libraries as 425 and number of historical society libraries as 44, a total of 674, which in the course of three years has been materially increased, it is entirely safe to say. Taking only one half of this number, as that of libraries needing or desiring sets of session laws and willing to care for them, leaves over 300 such institutions. This would take at least one third of the edition of one thousand copies. The state law reports have been reprinted in some form or other for at least one half of the 45 states and territories. And by this reprinting prices of sets of original reports have been materially reduced. As a means of preservation alone, this matter is worth considering. The recent disaster which has overtaken the New York State Law Library, one of the most complete law collections in the country emphasizes this matter of reprints. What they had in reprints, either session laws or reprints of other states can be comparatively easily supplied. What early laws of New York state they had reprinted they saved for themselves as well as others. Your committee is also working with a committee of the National Association of State Libraries on this reprint question, and we need the assistance of every law librarian and every state librarian. Only by arousing and stimulating an interest in this can we succeed and we invite you one and all to help in the good work.

This report is submitted as one of information and progress.

G. E. WIRE,  
GAMBLE JORDAN,  
J. E. KING,  
Committee.

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## GUIDES TO FOREIGN LAW LITERATURE.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS FOR 1910-11.

May 3, 1911.

The Law Division of the Library of Congress is making a systematic effort to bring its collection of foreign law to a state of high efficiency. The growing interest in comparative law manifested by legislators, lawyers and scholars has indicated the utility and stimulated the acquisition of a well-developed laboratory of comparative law, in which shall be represented the best legal literature of the important states of the world.

A well-defined policy has been pursued in securing the information necessary for the purchase of the most useful legal literature. In May, 1910, Mr. Edwin M. Borchard, now law librarian, was appointed as expert in international law to the American Agency in the North Atlantic Coast Fisheries Arbitration at the Hague. Taking advantage of his presence in Europe, Mr. Borchard, at the conclusion of his mission at the Hague, visited the principal countries of western Europe, in order to secure, by personal interview, information from lawyers, judges, professors, and law librarians as to the important legal literature of their respective countries. Opportunity is now taken to express thanks to the following gentlemen for their valued co-operation in the undertaking:

Mr. Woltenbeek Müller, Justice S. Gratama of the Supreme Court of Holland, Mr. Limburg, and Mr. Trip, all of the Hague; Dr. G. de Leval, Dr. H. de Boelpaepe of Brussels; Dr. C. Neukirch and Dr. Kauffmann of Frankfurt; Dr. Edouard Clunet, Mr. F. Allain, Mr. C. F. Beach, and Prof. Paul Viollet of Paris; M. Paul Privat, and Profs. Martin and Reyfous of Geneva; Prof. E. Huber and Dr. Koenig of Berne; Prof. F. Meili, Dr. Schneeli, Dr. G. Wettstein and Dr. Letsch of Zurich; District Attorney Enea Noseda, Dr. E. Crespi, Dr. Luigi Ansbacher, and Dr. Ernesto Tamanti of Milan; Dr. Bizio Gradengo, Dr. G. Diena and Dr. Sacerdoti of Venice; Prof. A. Catellani of Padua; Prof. Karl von Amira, Prof. E. Ullmann, and Dr. K. Veit of Munich; Dr. A. de Griez, Dr. Josef Stammhammer, Dr. A. Fischer-Colbrie and Prof. Heinrich Lammash of Vienna; Dr. S. Salzburg and Dr. Kaiser of Dresden; Prof. Ludwig Mitteis and Prof. Karl Schulz, law librarian of the German supreme court of Leipzig; Dr. Georg Maas, Dr. H. Klibanski, Dr. Ernst Delaquis, and Dr. Konrad Gutmann of Berlin; Profs. A. Torp and H. Jorgensen and Dr. W. Angelo of Copenhagen.

Since December, 1910, further information has been sought in a systematic campaign conducted by correspondence with leading jurists in the countries not personally visited. The correspondence has been carried on in French, German, and Spanish, which languages have been found sufficient for all practical purposes. Gratifying responses have already been received from the following gentlemen, to whom occasion is here taken to express our appreciation and thanks:

J. F. N. Beichmann, chief justice of Norway, Drontheim; Prof. Knud Berlin, University of Copenhagen; Dr. Francis Hagerup, Norwegian ambassador to Denmark; Dr. Antonio Mesquita de Figueiredo, Lisbon, Portugal; Dr. Ramon Sanchez de Ocaña of the ministry of justice, Madrid, Spain; Senator Don Francisco Lastres, Madrid, Spain; Prof. Torres Campos, Granada, Spain; Prof. H. Lamba, Cairo, Egypt; Dr. A. Tarica, attorney, Smyrna, Turkey; Prof. Jose A. de Freitas, University of Montevideo, Uruguay; Dr. Von Veh, Berlin, Germany (Russian law); Prof. Karl Adler, Czernowitz University, Austria; Prof. Josef Redlich, Vienna University, Austria; Prof. Ulisse Manara, Genoa University, Italy; Prof. Gino Dallari, Siena University, Italy; Baron Hector Rolland, Monaco; Prof. Petr. J. Kazansky, Odessa, Russia; Prof. Gerardo Berjano y Escobar, Oviedo, Spain.

Most of the countries of Latin-America, the Near East and Asia are still to be heard from.

The information thus secured is, after a process of comparison and selection, made the basis for the purchase of the most important legal works of the respective foreign countries. It has been considered advantageous, upon the arrival in the Library of a sufficient number of such works, to make public the resources of our foreign law collection. This undertaking is to consist of the preparation, by the law librarian, of guides to foreign law and critical surveys of the important literature. The first publication, a guide to the law and legal literature of Germany, is to appear in January. The surveys for Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, Spain and the other countries of Europe are to follow, it being proposed to publish two or three monographs a year. These guides are to serve as introductions to foreign law for the American lawyer and as aids to investigators in finding the law. The enterprise has met with the heartiest endorsement of the Comparative Law Bureau of the American Bar Association.

## USE OF THE PRINTED CARDS OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BY LAW LIBRARIES.

BY C. H. HASTINGS, Chief of Catalogue Division, Library of Congress.

In view of the large and increasing demand for the printed cards of the Library of Congress from law libraries, it is unfortunate that it has not yet been practicable to reclassify and recatalog the collection of the Library of Congress on law. It seems probable that this reclassifying and recataloging will not be begun until 1912, and it is not likely to be finished before 1915. Law libraries desiring to recatalog their collection as far as practicable with L. C. cards should therefore prepare to wait patiently until the last named date.

For the benefit of law librarians who cannot put off recataloging, the following brief statement as to the utility of the cards now available is submitted.

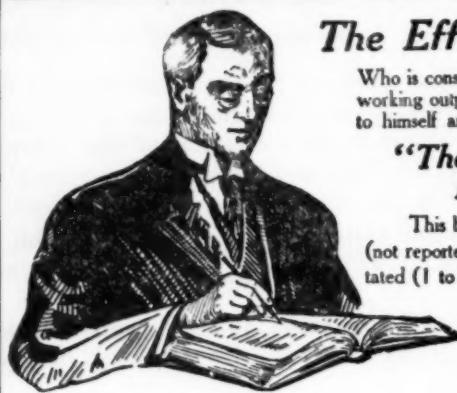
The present collection of cards for law in the narrower sense numbers but about 13,000, but it should be kept in mind that the related classes, political science, constitutional history, administration, and international law are already reclassified and recataloged, so that fully as many more cards are available covering books which are usually included in law libraries.

In recataloging its collection, using printed cards so far as practicable, the Social Law Library in Boston obtained cards for about 40 per cent of its monographic works, even before the recataloging of political science and international law had been finished. It seems probable therefore that the average law library could now obtain cards for fully 40 per cent of its books, provided that it will accept cards for editions other than those in its collection. If it will not accept variation in edition, the percentage obtainable would probably be reduced to 35 per cent.

No attempt will here be made to explain the utility of the cards in cataloging law books published since 1898, the date on which the Library of Congress began to print for its current accessions of copyrighted law books, because such explanation seems unnecessary in view of the fact that the cards are being used successfully in all classes of libraries in every state in the Union.

A full explanation of methods of, ordering and using is given in the pamphlet "L. C. Printed Cards," obtainable on application to the Librarian of Congress. Additional details are supplied in the Handbook of Card Distribution, which is furnished to each library as soon as it begins to order cards.

It seems worth while to call attention here to the advantage of subscribing to a selection of the cards currently printed by the Library of Congress for law books. These are shipped weekly, if desired, and constitute a convenient and useful bibliography of current publications on law, besides enabling the library which subscribes to the selection to order additional copies of the card for cataloging purposes by card number at the minimum rate. The selection may include cards for law in the broadest sense or may be limited to books in English, books on the law of a particular state, etc. The price per card for one copy of each card in the selection varies from .012 to .02, according to the scope of the selection. About a dozen law libraries and publishers of law books are now subscribing to such a selection of cards.



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